



Alexandria Police Department

Directive 6.8



DEFIBRILLATOR PROGRAM

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CONTENTS

- 6.8.01 PURPOSE AND POLICY
- 6.8.02 RESPONSIBILITIES
- 6.8.03 DEFIBRILLATOR PROCEDURES
- 6.8.04 GENERAL

6.8.01 PURPOSE AND POLICY

The purpose of this directive is to establish guidelines for the use of defibrillators (formal name: automated external defibrillator or AED) by Alexandria Police Department personnel. AEDs are installed in the various police facilities for use by trained personnel in the event that a person at a facility suffers a sudden cardiac arrest. The purpose of the AED is to provide immediate advanced care to victims of cardiac arrest until the arrival of Fire Department personnel. Personnel certified in CPR and AED courses approved by the Virginia Health Department's Emergency Medical Services Office may use the AED when necessary.

It is the policy of this department to use AEDs in accordance with the guidelines and procedures of the Emergency Medical Services Office. The Alexandria Police Department's program is conducted in cooperation with the Alexandria Fire Department and will conform to the standards of the American Heart Association (AHA) or other nationally recognized training organization approved by the Emergency Medical Services Office.

6.8.02 RESPONSIBILITIES

A. All Personnel Will:

1. Upon discovering a victim of a medical emergency at the police facility, ensure *the Department of Emergency Communications (DEC)* is notified either by telephone at 911 or by radio of the need for Emergency Medical Service (EMS) response.
2. Provide the exact location in the building where the victim is located.
3. Describe the victim's condition as prompted by the Emergency Communications Technician (ECT). If a victim is unconscious, not breathing, and has no pulse, they may be in cardiac arrest.
4. Render any first aid for which they are trained.

B. Non - AED-Trained Personnel:

Persons not trained in AED use will make a loud verbal announcement for any known AED-trained personnel who are in close proximity.

C. AED-Trained Personnel:

1. Have successfully completed training in CPR and in the use of AEDs.
2. If in a police facility at the time notification is received of a possible cardiac arrest there, will respond to the nearest AED in the building, remove the AED and protective gear from the storage box, respond to the location of the incident, and follow procedures for use of the AED as trained (see section 6.8.03).
3. If off of police facility property when notification is received, *personnel* are not authorized to respond based solely on receipt of notification by radio transmission or otherwise. The decision to respond is dependent on various factors such as proximity to the incident, availability of other trained personnel, etc.
4. *Responding personnel shall make radio notification of response, if possible.*
5. Use universal precautions as set forth in Police Directive 10.5, Infection Control. Protective gloves and a microshield are stored in the AED storage box.
6. Complete a Defibrillator Report (APD-533) anytime the AED is used. After approval by a supervisor or higher, forward the original report to the AED site coordinator (currently the Community Relations supervisor).
7. Report any use of, or perceived problems with, the AED to the site coordinator as soon as reasonable.

D. The Watch Commander Will:

1. Ensure a command page is sent if in their opinion it is appropriate.
2. Ensure the incident is noted on the appropriate watch log, *confirming victim privacy and HIPPA laws are not violated.*
3. Ensure that each AED use is documented on a Defibrillator Report (APD-533) and that the original report is forwarded to the site coordinator.
4. Consider the need for critical incident stress debriefing for personnel involved in the incident.

E. The AED Site Coordinator Will:

1. Work directly with the Alexandria Fire Department to manage, regulate and report on the program.
2. If an AED is used, review and forward the Defibrillator Report (APD-533) to the Fire Department's program manager.
3. In coordination with the Police Department's training coordinator and the Fire Department's training schedule, provide training to Police Department employees and maintain training records.
4. Provide basic maintenance to the AED units.
5. Ensure that the AEDs are checked regularly. If the status indicator is green, the unit is ready for a rescue. If the indicator is red, contact the Fire Department program manager for repair.
6. *Periodic Police Staff email notifications will be sent to inform police personnel of the current AED site coordinator and any other fundamental information.*

6.8.03	DEFBRILLATOR PROCEDURES
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A. AED-Trained Personnel Should:

1. Ensure that EMS is enroute.
2. Assess scene safety, checking for hazards such as electrical dangers, chemical spills, traffic or fire threats.

3. Assess the victim, determining if they are unconscious, not breathing and have no pulse.
4. Open the lid on the AED to power up the unit.
5. Follow the voice prompts to place the electrodes on the victim, using the picture provided for proper placement. If the victim has a nitroglycerin patch on the chest, remove it prior to applying AED pads. If the victim has an implantable pacemaker do not place AED pads directly over the pacemaker.
6. Allow the AED to analyze the victim's heart rhythm, ensuring that no one touches or moves the victim, as this will interfere with the analysis.
7. If the AED detects a shockable rhythm, the unit will charge and will voice prompt, "charging."
8. Once charged, the AED will voice prompt the operator to "Stand clear. Push flashing button to rescue." After making a visual head-to-toe check of the victim to ensure no person has physical contact with any part of the victim's body, the rescuer must state, "I'm clear, you're clear, everyone is clear." Once clear, the rescuer will press the "rescue" button to deliver a defibrillation pulse.
9. After the first defibrillation, the AED will re-analyze the victim's heart rhythm. Again, do not touch or move the victim. If a shockable rhythm is detected, the AED will charge and prompt the rescuer to deliver another defibrillation pulse.
10. Continue this cycle until up to three defibrillation pulses are delivered. If at any time during this cycle the AED detects a heart rhythm that does not require defibrillation, the voice prompt will say, "Check pulse. If no pulse, give CPR." The AED will not advise to defibrillate all pulseless victims. Some cardiac rhythms do not respond to defibrillation. Leave AED pads on the victim during CPR.
11. After one minute of CPR, the AED will re-analyze the victim's heart rhythm again. If the cardiac rhythm is shockable, the AED will guide the rescuer through another three-defibrillation pulse sequence, followed by one minute of CPR. This sequence should continue until no shockable rhythm is detected; or the electrodes are disconnected; or EMS personnel arrive on the scene and take over treatment.
12. If at some point during the rescue the victim converts to a heart rhythm that does not require defibrillation, the AED will prompt the rescuer "Check pulse. If no pulse, give CPR." If the victim is found to have a pulse but is not breathing, continue rescue breathing, leave the electrodes in place and follow any further voice prompts.

13. If the victim regains consciousness, make them as comfortable as possible until EMS personnel arrive.
 14. Complete a Defibrillator Report (APD-533). After approval by a supervisor or higher *authority*, forward the original report to the AED site coordinator.
- B. While the AED is sufficiently user-friendly to allow an untrained person to use it in an emergency situation, it is recommended that only trained personnel use it.
 - C. Users should note that the voice prompts will vary slightly with the different AED models, but are essentially similar.

6.8.04	GENERAL
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- A. Medical direction for this department's AED program is provided through the Alexandria Fire Department's current medical control physician. Medical direction includes the following:
 1. Development and review of policies and procedures defining the standards of victim care and use of the AED.
 2. Review of response documentation and rescue data for all uses of the AED.
 3. Oversight of the initial and continuing AED training.
 4. Provide advice regarding the medical care of those in need of such care.
- B. The Alexandria Fire Department will manage the program, handling such issues as conducting annual maintenance on the AEDs, providing accessory supplies such as pocket masks, extra electrode pads, etc., and providing initial and refresher training.

BY AUTHORITY OF:

Earl L. Cook
Chief of Police